Serial No.: 09/998,623 - 6 - Art Unit: 1614

Conf. No.: 5765

REMARKS

Claims 23-26, 36, 46-49, 51, and 53-55 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, Applicant is canceling claims 36, 46-49, 51, and 53-55 without prejudice or disclaimer. No claims have been amended. As a result, claims 23-26 are pending for examination with claims 23 and 26 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 23-26 are allowable. Applicants have canceled all claims except claims 23-26 in order to expedite issuance of a patent.

Finality of Office Action

Although applicants have canceled all claims except claims 23-26 which are allowable in order to expidite prosecution, applicants wish to point out to the examiner that the Finality of the office action is improper. In the previous Office Action claims 23-26, 36, 46-49 and 51 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitation of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response to the office action Applicants re-wrote the claims as suggested by the Examiner and canceled all of the other claims. Applicants did not add any new limitations into the claims. The new rejections raised by the Examiner are not related to any changes that Applicant made. Thus the finality of the office action is improper.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 36, 46-49, 51, and 53 -55 have been rejected under U.S.C. §112. Although applicants disagree with the rejection, applicants have canceled each of these claims in order to expidite allowance of claims 23-26.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.